



# ST. LOUIS ARMY ENGINEER DISTRICT *ESPRIT*

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October 2003



The doors of the National Great Rivers Museum officially opened to the public on October 15th. Interactive and static exhibits offer visitors a better understanding of the many benefits we all enjoy from this, our mightiest of rivers.

## National Great Rivers Museum Opens

It was a perfect day to celebrate the grand opening of the National Great Rivers Museum.

The crisp, cool air of early morning was slowly warmed by the rising sun, and a cool breeze, blowing off the Mississippi River, created a comfortable environment for the some 300 people who attended the official grand opening ceremony on Oct. 15.

U.S. Rep. Jerry Costello, along with other special guests, to include Brig. Gen. Don T. Riley, Mississippi Valley Division Commander, and St. Louis District Commander, Col. Kevin Williams, spoke excitedly about the much-anticipated National Great Rivers Museum.

Congressman Costello was instrumental in getting the project's initial funding

for fiscal year 1997. He said it was the only project of its kind in the whole nation that received funding that year.

The museum's concept, design and construction brought together federal and state agencies, as well as private organizations, all working cooperatively to tell the Mississippi River's story, said Col. Williams.

**Cont. page 3**



## Commander's Perspective



**COL Kevin Williams**

The past few months have been a busy time for the District with the Low Water Inspection trip, Brig. Gen. Riley's Town Hall meeting, fiscal year close out and the National Great Rivers Museum's grand opening.

I congratulate you all on a job well done. Every day I am amazed at your level of professionalism and how quickly you pull together as a District to ensure the success of the whole.

I would like to say congratulations again on a very successful fiscal year! The District achieved the Corps of Engineers' fiscal goals in every appropriation for both the basic execution schedule and available funds. This was an unprecedented execution rate for the District.

Your success is even more remarkable considering the many obstacles placed before the District. The fiscal year started with us working under a Continuing Resolution Authority (CRA) for the first 6 months. Following the CRA, we found ourselves with a budget that

would not meet our projected fiscal year expenditures and you found a way to adjust our program, accomplish our project schedules and meet the payroll every month.

It took outstanding teamwork from every division, branch and section in our District to accomplish this remarkable execution rate. I congratulate each and every one of our District teams for not only surviving, but for excelling in this very arduous fiscal year.

There are still challenges before us. One on the horizon is USACE 2012. In September, all 40 District Engineers had the opportunity to discuss USACE 2012 with the Chief of Engineers, General Flowers.

The objectives of USACE 2012 are to maintain our competency and reduce our overhead so that we can achieve the goal of delivering timely, effective services at the lowest possible cost to our customers.

The guiding principle will be teamwork and interdependence. The intent is to reduce redundancy, where appropriate, by consolidating some functions within a region and/or eliminating redundant reviews by division and HQ.

We are going to implement USACE 2012. Our job is to make sure we do so in a manner that allows us to deliver our projects more quickly and at the best value to our customers. In the words of the Chief, "This implementation can be an ordeal or it can be an adventure, the difference will be in our attitude." Let's make it an adventure, and not an ordeal.

Also, as you know we have embarked on this year's Combined Federal Campaign. The CFC is an annual program to fund a broad list of chari-

table organizations that strive to meet a variety of needs from our local area to worldwide.

However you choose to respond to the CFC, it's absolutely your own personal decision.

This year's coordinators are Angela Gorenz, 331-8664, and Catherine Cummings, 331-8060. If you have not been approached by a key worker or have questions regarding CFC, please feel free to call them.

I am extremely proud to lead the St. Louis District, and I am continually impressed with your skill and dedication. I am looking forward to the great accomplishments ahead as we enter FY04.

Essayons!

### In This Issue:

National Great Rivers Museum Opens .....	Cover Story
Commander's Perspective .....	Page 2
Lake Shelbyville News ...	Page 4
Happy Birthday Locks 27	Page 5
Old Greenville Days .....	Page 6
Vivid Memories .....	Page 7
Internal Review Award ...	Page 8
"All Ahead Full" .....	Page 10
Faces & Places .....	Page 11
The Way I Remember It	Page 12
Retiree's Corner .....	Page 15
Veterans Day 2003 .....	Back Cover



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District Commander ----- COL Kevin Williams

Acting Chief, Public Affairs ----- Lattissua D. Tyler

Editor, ----- Nicole M. Dowell

Address mail to: US Army Engineer District, St. Louis,  
ATTN: CEMVS-PA, 1222 Spruce, St. Louis, MO 63103-2833,  
Phone (314) 331-8095



## River Museum Cont. from page 1

"I look around at all the different federal, state and local agencies that are represented and assembled here today, sitting side by side with the leaders of our communities and industries, and I realize that the river and all of its challenges and benefits is the common ground that links us together," the Colonel said in his opening day remarks.

Numerous organizations such as the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Survey, the U.S. Geological Survey, Emerson Electric, Lewis and Clark Community College, Southern Illinois Higher Education Consortium and The Meeting of the Rivers Foundation have worked alongside the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to make this new and exciting facility a reality.

The Meeting of the Rivers Foundation, a private not-for-profit group, was developed to assist the Corps in raising private funds for the exhibit's development and endowment.

"The museum will provide the opportunity to tell the story of the river from the multiple perspectives of industry, environment, and recreation," said Jack Jacoby, Meeting of the Rivers president.

"The museum will be a great opportunity to educate people, especially kids, about the river. The foundation has been proud to be a part of this exciting project," Jacoby said in his opening day remarks.

The museum's exhibits focus on telling the story of the Mississippi River, our river. The hope is to reconnect people to the river's historical significance as well as cultural and ecological importance.

Displays in the museum illustrate the river's importance and discuss the ongoing cyclical forces that shape life on the river. Visitors learn about the ancient beginning of the river and also experience the confluence of the great rivers – the Missouri, Illinois and Mississippi.



**"Our River" welcomes everyone to the National Great Rivers Museum. Here, personal accounts introduce visitors to the Mississippi's diverse roles.**

The St. Louis District manages an important piece of the Mississippi River. The Illinois and Missouri Rivers both join the Mississippi within our borders, and the St. Louis District is the only district in the Mississippi Valley Division that manages both lock and dam river and open river.

The Mississippi River is important to the nation as a whole.

The U.S. Congress stated the River is a "nationally significant ecosystem and a nationally significant commercial navigation system" in the Upper Mississippi River Management Act of 1986.

The River's ecosystem and the navigational system are both explored in the museum.

The museum's displays are split into three sections – Our River, Lock and Dam System, and People and the River.



**The "Steer the Barge" exhibit is very popular with kids.**

So far, one of the most popular displays is "Steer the Barge." Visitors are able to learn what it's like piloting a tow, which is three football fields long and has no brakes, through an interactive simulator that features three screens and manual controls.

Universal Services Associates, Inc. of Lock Haven, Pa., was responsible for engineering and designing the exhibits.

Mickey Callahan, the project manager for USA Inc., worked alongside the Corps, the Meeting of the Rivers Foundation and Spark Agency of St. Louis on concepts for the museum's displays.

Contract award, conceptual designs, prototypes, construction and installation took almost two years to the day.

Callahan, who attended the grand opening, said it is a wonderful sense of achievement seeing the displays in the museum.

"It makes me proud of my company and the efforts of all those who brought this together," Callahan said.

Callahan, who lives on the East Coast, had only minimal knowledge of the Mississippi River.

He has come away from this project with a better sense for the River, and compared the Mississippi to such national icons as Mount Rushmore and





### River Museum Cont. from page 3

the Grand Canyon. "The river has a majesty about it."

He hopes that museum visitors will learn as much as he did about the river. "The displays are well-balanced and contain a lot of depth," he said.

The river is a complex system that supports not only wildlife but also human life. The river is many things to many people.

Balancing the needs and the uses of the river is something the Corps of Engineers has been doing for over one hundred years.

Pat McGinnis, Chief of Riverlands, said the Corps plays a significant role in the education and cooperation between all those various people interested in the river.

"The easiest way to break up the environment into manageable pieces is in watersheds and that is how the Corps is organized," McGinnis said.

Joe Kellett, Deputy District Engineer for Planning, Programs and Project Management, said the waterways perform a vital role in our country's infrastructure.

"When visitors leave the National Great Rivers Museum, they will not only have a better appreciation for our rivers and the vital roles they play in our lives, but people will also gain a greater appreciation for our water resources in general," said Carol Ryan, park ranger and manager of the National Great Rivers Museum.

The museum stands as a true testament to the successful partnering of various agencies, who at times have radically different points of view on river management, but are able to come together and make the best decision, not necessarily for themselves, but for the river, our river.

The National Great Rivers Museum will be managed and maintained by the Corps of Engineers with financial assistance from the Meeting of the Rivers Foundation.

The museum is open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily except for Thanksgiving, Christmas, New Year's Day and Easter. Admission is free.

### Lake Shelbyville

Volunteers for National Public Lands Day performed over 100 service hours at Lake Shelbyville Sept. 20.

Employees of KC Summers Toyota in Mattoon, Ill., high school students from Sullivan, and Future Farmers of America members from Windsor helped spread bark chips around playground areas at the Forrest W. "Bo" Wood Recreation Area.

They also mulched newly planted trees, cleaned flowerbeds, brushed photo blinds and picked up litter at Bo Wood and Whitley Creek Campgrounds.

All volunteers were rewarded for their efforts with lunch provided by Focus Investments in Shelbyville. Bob Hecht Toyota of Effingham contributed money for supplies.

National Public Lands Day is a project of the National Environmental Education and Training Foundation in partnership with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Bureau of Land Management, Bureau of Reclamation, Department of Defense, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, USDA Forest Service, National Park Service, and Tennessee Valley Authority.

National Public Lands Day 2003, focused on improving and preserving our country's habitats - the forests,

mountains, prairies, plains, rivers, wetlands, and urban streams that are home to a rich diversity of animals, birds, and plants.



**Mulch provides many benefits for our trees.**

Approximately 80,000 volunteers participated at 500 sites on this 10th Annual National Public Lands Day.

"This is an important event where volunteers share in the stewardship of our nation's treasured lands," said Al Lookofsky, Lake Shelbyville Park Ranger.

"It is the largest volunteer, hands-on effort of its kind in the country."



**Volunteers create an environmentally friendly surface by spreading mulch at one of the playgrounds.**



## Locks 27 Turns 50!

by Nicole Dowell

Lock 27, located along the Chain of Rocks Canal, quietly turned 50 years old Feb. 7.

When the lock opened, the Granite City paper reported that “the main lock [was] larger than any in the Panama Canal and [was] the largest lock in the Western Hemisphere.”

Lockmaster Ed Rogers remembers throwing a ham and beans party celebrating the Lock’s fortieth birthday, but somehow the fiftieth got away from him.

“I remember thinking to myself that the date was coming up and that I should plan something, but the time just got away from me,” Rogers said.

The Lock is probably closer to 175 years old when the level of activity and the amount of tonnage is taken into consideration, he added.

Just last year, 83.8 million tons of cargo on 7,873 commercial tows locked through 27. That is not including an additional 1,929 lockages for light, recreational and other miscellaneous boats.

“That wear and tear starts to take its toll on the equipment and ages the project more quickly,” Rogers said.

Lock 27 is the first and last lock on the Mississippi River and captures much, if not all, of the commercial traffic traveling up and down the Mississippi.

When Lock 27 goes down for maintenance it has a far-reaching impact that is felt from the Chicago Stock Exchange to Europe to the grain industry in Japan.

“It is quite a chain reaction when we go down. We get calls from all over,” Rogers said.

Lock 27 did have to close its 1,200-foot main lock Aug. 18-22 for gate repairs. Workers from Lock 27 and the Service Base worked “12-hour days under a broiling sun on steel barge decks and endure[d] heat indexes hovering around 115 degrees,” said Paul Schmidt, the Service Base’s Project Engineer.

Repairs were done so quickly that workers had time to reinstall three curved nappe sections that would have required a subsequent main chamber outage of at least two days, Schmidt said.

The navigation industry was notified in July of the closure and many companies planned accordingly, Rogers said.

With the main lock closed, tows had to go through the 600-foot auxiliary lock, which necessitated “cutting” tows.

A fifteen-barge tow, the most common Upper Mississippi tow, cannot go through a 600-foot lock all at once. The tow must be split in half and sent through in two sections.

It takes about 30 minutes to lock a 15-barge tow through the main lock. It takes an hour and a half to send that same tow through the auxiliary lock.

A 15-barge tow is typically three wide, five long, and when it is “cut,” the first

three rows of three barges go through separate from the last two rows and the boat. This means that a different boat has to be available to pull the first section out of the lock, moor it to the side of the channel, and wait for the other half to lock through.

The Chain of Rocks Canal does not have a pull boat that can assist with this task so the barge industry used a self-help program. Throughout the closure, different boat operators volunteered to tie their tows off and assist the others coming through the lock.

“There were times when we didn’t have any volunteers, but in general the operators stepped forward and helped one another,” Rogers said.

The Chain of Rocks Canal, which is 8.5 miles long, was built because the Chain of Rocks Reach, which extends along the northeastern boundary of St. Louis and St. Louis County, is, and has been, a hazard to river traffic since the earliest days of navigation on the Mississippi River.

Two sections of rock ledges, which extend from the east bank under the river channel, act as dams and increase the water’s velocity making this section of the river extremely difficult and dangerous to navigate. The rocks also contribute to an un-navigable channel depth of 5.5 feet during times of low water.

A lateral canal, the Chain of Rocks Canal, was constructed to bypass this dangerous area. The north end of the canal is just one mile south of the confluence of the Missouri River and the south end is adjacent to the Granite City Army Depot.

Like all St. Louis District locks, Lock 27 is open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year. The Mississippi River is a vital artery that carries commerce up and down, night and day.

The River does not sleep and nor do the Locks.

Rogers accepts the hours as part of the job and even looks at it humorously. “We’re even open more than White Castle. They’re closed for Christmas.”



Service Base personnel repair the upper lock gate at Locks 27.





Participants in Old Greenville Days stand with their cannon at the ready.

## Lake Wappapello's Old Greenville Days Bring the Past to Life.

The 12th Annual Old Greenville Days Event held at the Greenville Recreation Area at Wappapello Lake Sept. 20-21 was a smashing success.

The event, held in conjunction with the Wayne County Historical Society, drew record-breaking numbers of participants and attendees.

Over ten thousand people attended the two day event that featured 60 crafters, Union and Confederate Civil War encampments and battle reenactments, a parade, candle light tours, a memorial at the Union Cemetery, a non-denominational church service, children's games and live music.

Smoke billowed into the air, horses galloped and cannons boomed as members of Company B, 2nd Cavalry Battalion, First Division, Missouri State Guard staged Civil War skirmishes and battles.

"This is one of southeast Missouri's finest living history programs," said Kathy Dickson, Wappapello Lake Interpretive Service's Park Ranger.

The soldiers, Wayne County Historical Society, crafters and musicians combine to make for a great family time and a wonderful atmosphere, Dickson said.

The Greenville Masonic Lodge coordinated a parade that included the Greenville High School Band. Many

campers were able to sit at their campsites and watch as the parade made its way through the entire campground.

The Wayne County Historical Society, Puxico Boy Scouts and Wappapello Lions Club provided food stands.

The Boy Scouts and Lions Club provided free meals to the musicians who played live music all day Saturday and Sunday. The lineup featured some of southeast Missouri's finest bluegrass, gospel and country bands. Among them the Missouri Bluegrass Band, Bluegrass Country Revue, Buzzard Run with Bea

Hitt Rhodes, Hoe Downers, Hills Folks, Black River Express, The Otter Creek Band, McAtee Family and Just Us.

Several children's games were held including tug of war, a watermelon eating contest, three legged races and candy cannon. Candy cannon is exactly what it sounds like. Children gather around a cannon that has been stuffed with candy. The cannon is fired and children scurry all over gathering their treats.

"It was just so fantastic. It was truly an awesome event where everyone came out and had a great time," Dickson said.



Two ladies add a touch of charm in their "Sunday best" fashions.



Reenactments can be dangerous. Only horse and rider's ego were injured in this incident.





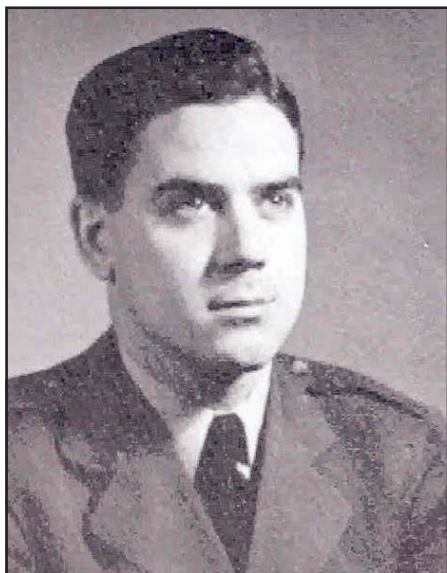
## Vivid Memories of Greenville

By Meg LaPlant, Wappapello Lake Volunteer

The constant flooding of the St. Francis River in southeast Missouri forever changed Frank White, his neighbors and friends, and his boyhood hometown of Greenville, Mo.

Major floods were recorded in the years of 1826, 1844, 1863, 1893, 1903, 1904, 1908, 1915, and 1935.

White, now 80 years old, is a veteran of World War II and served in the U. S. Navy. He remembers many interesting, thrilling, even hair-raising stories about the history of Greenville – now referred to as Old Greenville.

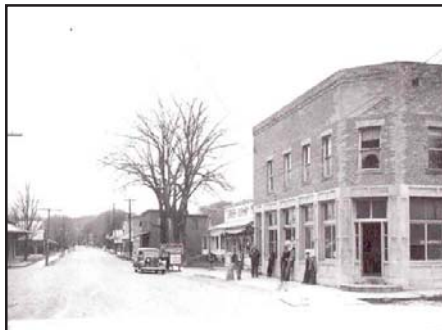


**Frank White as a young resident of Greenville, Missouri.**

Frank White became a resident of Greenville in 1928. He was the son of the town sheriff and attended the Greenville schools. “My father was the sheriff,” White said. “I walked everywhere I went stepping very careful. I did not want to tangle with my father’s left hand punishment.”

When the high school burnt down, Greenville students attended classes in makeshift schoolrooms until the new school was constructed. White watched the day-to-day progress as the new

school was built stone by stone. The sandstone was quarried down river from the town.



**The main street of Greenville as it appeared during the late 1930s.**

White and his peers would congregate in the streets and sit on wooden benches placed in front of store entrances.

“I would often hang around and listen to the locals, who gathered inside the courthouse, churches, banks, and stores, telling stories of the early history of Greenville,” White said.

Some of the early history he remembers is a Native American Trail, which later became known as the Natchitoches Trace, crossed the St. Francis River where Greenville was established.

The town, founded in 1818, was a governmental seat for Wayne County, Mo., and served as a political and trade center. The county is named for General Anthony Wayne, a Revolutionary War soldier.

Bettis Ferry (also called Cedar Cabin), owned by Elijah Bettis, carried the pioneer families across the St. Francis River to the frontier settlement. The settlement was named Greenville in honor of the Treaty of Greenville made with the Miami Indians in 1794 after the Battle of Fallen Timbers near Toledo, Ohio.

“My friends and I were entertained by people proudly repeating the story about the fact that the streets in Greenville were not surveyed, instead they were laid off by counting Mr. Bettis’ corn rows,” White said.

The town was ravaged by the Civil War. Over half the town was burned and both the Union and the Confederate

Armies occupied the town.

The logging boom in the last two decades of the nineteenth century helped provide a slow economic and political recovery of the town. The community endured and its ability to produce food and supplies locally helped the town survive the Great Depression.

But there was one thing the town was unable to survive. As directed in the Flood Control Act of 1936, Wappapello Dam was to be constructed 20 miles southeast of Greenville to control the flooding of the lower Mississippi Valley.



**Bicyclists and motorists share the quiet biways of what once was the streets of Greenville, Missouri.**

The resulting lake basin necessitated relocating the town two miles to the northeast in 1941. The buildings of the entire town were moved or razed.

Wards Dry Goods Store, on Timmons Street, was integrated into the store on Fifth Street in Poplar Bluff.

Other businesses either relocated in nearby towns or closed altogether. Many families with connections to Old Greenville live in the new town location today.

The Old Greenville Recreation Area stands where the old town was and is administered by the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers at Wappapello Lake.

A walking trail, Memory Lane, meanders through the ruins of the national historic sites. Camping is also available. White is proud to help identify each street and locate the buildings among Old Greenville ruins. Those who walk through Old Greenville on Memory Lane are able to discover a piece of our nation’s history. “There are no ghosts, just memories,” White said.



## Ernest J. Gregory Internal Review Award of Excellence

by Nicole Dowell

The St. Louis District received the 2003 Ernest J. Gregory Internal Review Award of Excellence on Aug. 21 at the Department of Army's Internal Review Training Symposium in Scottsdale, Arizona. The St. Louis District also won this recognition in 2001.

The weeklong conference ended with an awards banquet where Major Joseph Tyron, Deputy District Engineer, and Michael Banovz, Internal Review Officer, accepted the award from the Honorable Sandra L. Pack, Assistant Secretary of Army for Financial Management.

The award was given in Category A, which recognizes superior one-person IR offices, covering the time period between April 1, 2002 and March 31, 2003. Although the award is given to the St. Louis District it is attributed in large part to the efforts of Banovz.

What makes this year's award even more significant is that Banovz was not only serving as the St. Louis District IR Officer, but he was also filling in for the Mississippi Valley Division's IR Officer who retired in January 2002.

Brig. Gen. Don T. Riley, Division Commander, recognized Banovz's "dual-hat role" and stated in the nomination package that "the exceptional efforts and high productivity of this one auditor office are truly remarkable and are clearly worthy of this special award and recognition."

Banovz not only conducted seven audit and nine liaison engagements directly related to the St. Louis District, but he also completed 23 audit projects and engagements for the Division.

His productivity level far exceeded the established Army standard of seven audit engagements, per auditor, per year, Riley wrote. Audit engagements include quick response audits, which take on average 15 to 20 days, follow up reviews, which take about 10 days and liaison visits at about five days.

Aside from a series of part-time student co-ops, who cannot do actual auditing,



**Honorable Sandra L. Pack, Assistant Secretary of Army for Financial Management, makes the presentation to Mike Banovz, Deputy District Engineer, MAJ Joseph Tyron, attended on behalf of the St. Louis District staff.**

Banovz has been a one-man shop for well over ten years.

"For twelve years Mike has managed a one-auditor office and continues to provide excellent quality and quantity of professional audit services despite the office's limited size," Col. Kevin Williams, St. Louis District Engineer, said.

Banovz shows no signs of slowing down and continues to successfully balance his duties to the St. Louis District and his assistance to Division. He has started over 80 projects for fiscal year 2003.

As an auditor it is Banovz's job to evaluate programs, make sure they are in compliance with regulations and offer suggestions on how they might be run more efficiently, he said.

Before conducting an audit interview, Banovz is sure to do his homework. "I want to avoid having to go back to the interviewee for answers that could have been answered during the first interview."

Prior to the interview, he will go through the regulations and come up with a list of objectives and questions. Since Banovz's

audits can take him from real estate to logistics to construction and financial management his preparation helps with his learning curve, he explained.

Banovz also understands that first time interviewees may be nervous about getting audited, but he feels he has an honest and fair track record within the District.

"I believe they understand that I'm not out to get them or make them look bad in front of their supervisor. I just have a job to do, but I strive for a win-win outcome," he said.

To ease first time interviewees, Banovz will often give an overview of why the audit is being performed, take some time to get to know the interviewee and even though he has a list of questions, he won't sit there and read straight through them.

Research, interviews and paper work keep Banovz very busy, and he has found ways to use simple techniques and common sense in order to save time. "I am always trying to make the most efficient use of my time," he said.

Banovz does get much appreciated





assistance from his part-time student co-ops. He usually has one work for him until they graduate from college. The student provides assistance by setting up audit packets, creating much utilized templates and filing.

While currently performing ten mandated Chief Financial Officer Internal Review validations, the audit templates help Banovz move quickly between projects. Audit files follow a specific format and matrix. With the audit paperwork template, all he has to do is change the header and print out the basic working papers to set up an audit file.

Templates for memos, file indexes and annual reports, which are all reused and revised, also assist in his timesaving efforts.

Using templates is one of the tips Banovz has given to new IR chiefs during their orientation. For the past several years, Banovz has been asked to conduct orientations for new Mississippi Valley Division District IR chiefs at St. Paul, Rock Island and Memphis Districts.

He uses the orientations as a way to familiarize new chiefs with the Corps and its Internal Review policies and procedures. It also provides them insight into how an effective small audit office increases productivity while complying with IR regulatory requirements.

It is evident through the Ernest J. Gregory Internal Review Award of Excellence, the praise of Division, the counsel he is asked to provide new IR chiefs, and his continued service to the

District that Banovz is not only respected within the Corps but Armywide.

Col. Williams said that Banovz is a "highly respected and valuable member of the district management team."

"He is a consummate team player who constantly demonstrates his ultimate goal is to make invaluable contributions to the furtherance of Corps goals and objectives and safeguard government assets and taxpayer dollars," Williams said.

"His contributions to the St. Louis District, the Mississippi Valley Division, Headquarters, U. S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Department of the Army are most deserving of this recognition," Williams said in closing.

The Colonel speaks for all of us when he says, "Congratulations Mike!"

## 10th Annual Mark Twain Lake Missouri Mule Days

Missouri Mules strutted their stuff at Mark Twain Lake on September 27 & 28. The Northeast Missouri Long Ears Association and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers sponsored the 10th Annual Missouri Mule Days held in the Warren G. See South Spillway Recreation Area. Approximately 450 visitors attended Saturday's events. Thirty mules were entered in fun challenges such as the obstacle course, potato race, mule jumping and balloon races. On Sunday mules and horse riders met at the Joanna Trail for a leisurely trail ride.



**This is a balloon race. It looks more like a chance to see who's the most stubborn.**



**Mules can really run! Maybe the rider's making up the time he lost getting past the mule's well known stubborn streak!**



**Some of the two and four legged participants at the Missouri Mule Days**



## "All Ahead Full"

By Janet Mifflin, Rivers Project Park Ranger

Gregory Breerwood, Chief of the Operations Division, New Orleans District, transferred ownership of the engine room telegraph from the paddlewheel Dredge Kennedy to the St. Louis District for display at the National Great Rivers Museum. It is by far one of the best ship telegraphs still owned by the Corps of Engineers.



**Gregory Breerwood stands beside his discovery.**

Breerwood found the artifact wrapped up in the bowels of the Dredge while performing an inspection when the boat was at the 1984 World's Fair in New Orleans.

The telegraph was behind a false wall that someone had hastily made. During the fair, a few nails loosened up and allowed a crack in the wall. Breerwood noticed a handle sticking out of something wrapped in dirty cloth.

After unraveling the mysterious item, he found the telegraph pictured here, only it had several years of tarnish built up on the bronze finish. With a lot of hard work, the telegraph was made to look brand new again.

A little research produced the telegraph's original maker, The Kirk, Habicht Company of Baltimore, established in 1907 and still in business today.

The Kirk, Habicht Company is family owned and founded by William Habicht and Charles Kirk who were inventors in their era. After a conversation with the current company owner, Mark Habicht, more valuable information was discovered in regards to the telegraph.

This particular telegraph was used in



**Dredge Kennedy as she appeared during her working life with the St. Louis District.**

the pilothouse of steam driven vessels. It would have had chains attached to the handle, down thru the base, thru the floor, down to the engine room where the engine room receiver was located.

The dials are more primitive than what you would find on today's boats, but modern boats still operate on the same principle – one side with lettering in black for "Ahead" and one side with lettering in red for "Astern".

The dial, which was made of white porcelain, with the lettering burned in to prevent peeling, was used on a double-engine twin-screw boat.

The wording on the dial is Navy Standard.

When the captain moved the handles in the pilothouse, the chains would move a pointer and ring a bell on the engine room receiver. The bell would get the engineer's attention, and he would know how the captain wanted to proceed.

The engineer also had handles he could move to let the captain know he got the message.

The original telegraph was accompanied by a speaker made from a brass tube with a flange on one end that ran down to the engine room allowing the captain to speak to the engineer. This type of equipment was used on steam ships until replaced, in later years, by electronics and nowadays by digital electronics.

The telegraph will enhance the story

of steamboats used in the "River Through Time" exhibit at the National Great Rivers Museum, which will be open as of October 15.

The exhibit features several Corps of Engineers steamboats that illustrate how people were transported up and down the river.

Many people from the surrounding area will get a sense of nostalgia by remembering their ancestors and the stories they have been told pertaining to the steamboat era.

In the heyday of steam boating, there were thousands of paddle wheelers churning the American waterways. Although most steamboats were gone before World War I, their memory and the images they stir in the imagination are part of the American dream.

Mark Twain, Hollywood, Vaudeville and jazz music were all part of steamboat history.

Steamboats weathered several storms of war, and they remain in our lives as tourist destinations, museums and recreational transportation.

The paddlewheel Dredge Kennedy belonged to the St. Louis District and was commissioned in 1932. Used primarily on the Mississippi River until the late 1970's, the Kennedy supported marine transportation by keeping the channel and harbors available to large vessels.

The "River Through Time" display





The Kennedy telegraph is now on display at the Great Rivers Museum

also features famous Henry Bosse prints such as the U.S. Steamboat Lucia, 1889, and the U.S. General Barnard, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers side wheel snag boat from 1885.

Together all these items focus on the different types of boats used on the Mississippi River and how we have progressed through time in terms of boating.

Many people made quality contributions to the success of the "River

Through Time" exhibit.

The St. Louis District would like to say thank you to New Orleans, Memphis, and Rock Island District employees who worked together individually and collaboratively to provide us with all the historic details, Mississippi River artifacts, and great information.

The visitors of the National Great Rivers Museum will certainly enjoy learning about the rich history of the Mississippi River.



*It took almost four years, but Jo Anne Y. Long, a project assistant in the Planning and Project Development Branch, has gotten her first book published.*

*Her book, Show Me Forever, is a contemporary romance novel about high school sweethearts Eann Franklin and Jennifer Clark, and is based in St. Louis.*

*"As they [Eann and Jennifer] attempt to reunite, they encounter heartache and deceit in the form of a long legged brown-eyed beauty that pulls the oldest trick in the book. There are real life issues and humor in the book and I hope readers will enjoy it," Long said. For this issue of Esprit, Long shared some of her experiences of writing the book and trying to get it published.*

I am an avid reader of romance, and after many years of reading countless novels, I felt I could be creative too. So in July 1999, through faith, courage and inspiration, I took pen, paper and my computer, sat down and over time wrote a manuscript.

I would write during the evenings after work, on the MetroLink to and from work, but mainly on the weekends.

It took me about ten months to finally

complete the manuscript. Once completed, I had to find a publisher. Talk about hard! It was next to impossible.

I'd search the Internet looking for publishers and create a mailing list. Then I'd compile and package my book proposals and mail them out. In about three weeks time the rejection letters started rolling in, one after the other.

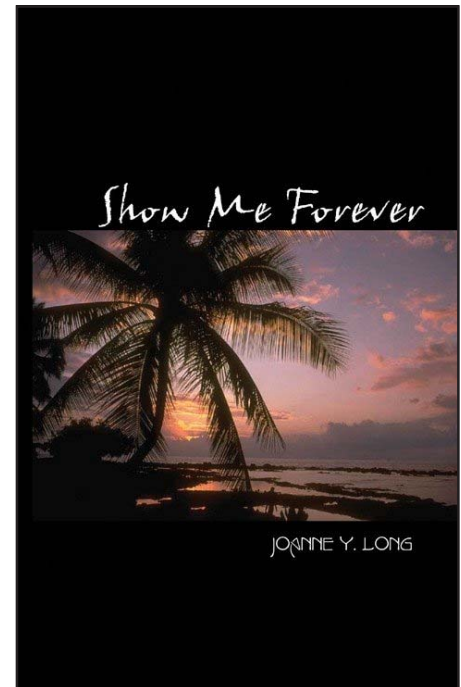
Most were standard, "Sorry, we are not accepting new authors at this time," or "You need an agent." Taking their advice, I got back on the computer and started looking for agents. I submitted proposals to them but received practically the same response. "We are not accepting new authors at this time."

After many months of this I began to get discouraged so I finally stopped trying and put the manuscript on the shelf. A year went by and I pulled it down and started the process all over again. I hoped it would be different but it wasn't. I still received the same responses and so back on the shelf it went again.

2003 turned out to be a very good year. I was finally able to find a publisher.

I enjoyed writing Show Me Forever because it gave me a sense of accomplishment. I did something I would never have thought myself capable of doing.

Long has worked for the U.S. Federal Government twenty-one years, stateside and overseas. Her husband, a retired



Cover of Jo Anne's new book

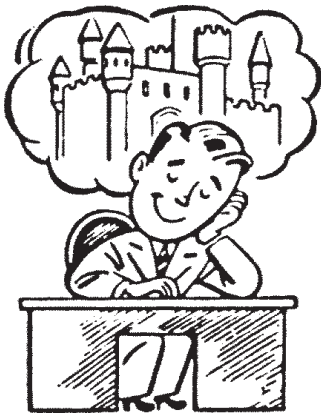
*Army Master Sergeant, moved the family to Georgia, North Carolina, Guam and California. She has returned home to St. Louis, where she was raised and went to school.*

*She is now working on her second novel, Staying Friends and those interested in learning more about Show Me Forever can visit <http://www.joanneylong.com>.*

*Long is planning a book signing that will be held over her lunch hour in the PM conference room. Please contact her for additional information.*



## The Way I Remember It



The Way I Remember It!

The valley of the Middle Mississippi River has long been used by Mother Nature to perfect her natural disasters. From the days of early settlers to today's modern city-dwellers, the region has been a tough place to live.

One of the most severe disasters in recorded history was the New Madrid earthquake - actually a cluster of three quakes during the winter, December 1811 to February 1812. The quakes were centered under the present day city of New Madrid, Mo.

The ground shook so hard that chimneys were toppled in Cincinnati, some 360 miles away.

Church bells rang in Boston. The ground under the Mississippi sank from three to nine feet, and the mighty river paused to run backwards for several hours to fill the hole. Forests of trees were overturned when the soil was shaken from their roots.

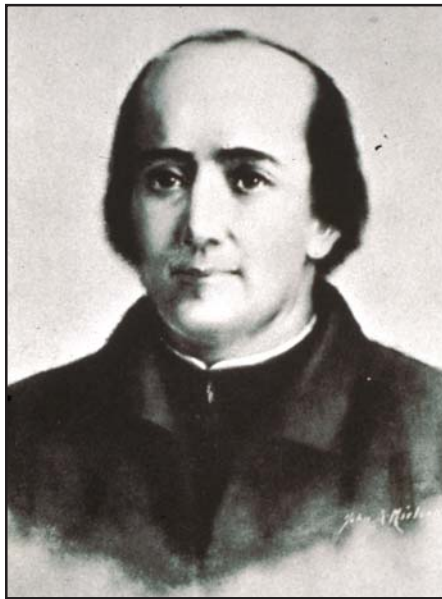
And there have been weather-related extremes as well: droughts, bitter winters, searing heat waves, and the floods — lots of floods!

Spaniard Hernando Desoto and his exploration party were the first Europeans to visit the Mississippi River valley and Garcilaso de la Vega - he must have been Desoto's PAO - recorded a flood on their journey in 1543. He wrote of high water near what is today Memphis, with the Mississippi exceeding its banks from about 10 March to the 20th of May

1543.

That trip was devastating to Desoto's party. Half of their 250 horses died. One third of his party of 700 also succumbed to the wilderness' rigors. Returning to the banks of the Mississippi near what is today Natchez, Desoto crowned his mission by himself dying. His men, knowing that Desoto had struck awe into the region's Indians, were afraid for them to find out that he had died like a normal mortal, so they weighted his body and sunk it in the Mississippi at night before they scuttled away.

The next flood recorded by Europeans was noted in a journal of the Marquette-Jolliet expedition of 1673.



**Father Jacques Marquette, pictured above, and Louis Jolliet headed an expedition in 1673**

As the Frenchmen traveled down the Mississippi from the north and approached the mouth of the Missouri River, they "heard the noise of a rapid" and before long they saw "an accumulation of large and entire trees, branches and floating islands issuing from the mouth of the river Pekistanoui (Missouri).

"So great was the agitation that the water was very muddy and could not become clear," they chronicled. When the expedition attempted to pass the

mouth of the Missouri, its swift current swept them to the east bank of the Mississippi River making them some of Illinois' first tourists.

A century and change later in 1785, the region experienced what was known as the "Year of the Great Waters". A large flood visited the valley. The towns of Kaskaskia, Cahokia, Ste. Genevieve and a large part of the American Bottoms were submerged.

I found a letter written in 1785, which describes the flood in the Kaskaskia area.

### **John Dodge to William Clark, October 18, 1785:**

*Dear Sir,*

*This makes several letters wrote you without the pleasure of any of yours which made me think that you had left the country but by chance heard that you was still on the land of the living although have nothing protickeler to trouble you with. I dare say that you have heard of the greate fresh (flood) all the hole country drowned (a) no. of houses carried into the Missisipia and to compleat the misery of the inhabitants has ben a greate drouth so that what was not kild with water - is with fire.*

The next big flood I will discuss visited the Middle Mississippi River Valley in 1844. It was contended by some of the old inhabitants, of Kaskaskia and Cahokia, who remembered the great flood of 1785 that this water attained a greater height. The following letter gives an eyewitness account of the flood.

*Since my last letter to you we have been visited by a disastrous flood, which has completely destroyed the crops throughout the bottoms of Missouri and Mississippi rivers. Many houses and all the fences were swept away. Kaskaskia was completely submerged. There was fully six feet of water in Mrs. Mapuelle's house. All the inhabitants were, of course, forced to fly from their homes and seek shelter and safety in the hills*





opposite the town. The distress throughout the bottoms will be general and severely felt; all having lost their crops and money, everything else they possessed besides. The water was higher by five or six feet than it was in the one talked of "l'annee des grandes eaux". It has now receded from the town and many people returned to their homes.

Mrs. Mapuelle family are still with us, and I hope will continue with us for sometime. Ferdinand and his family are with us still but will return home in a few days.

Mrs. Chouteau, I have heard, suffered severely, her dwelling and warehouses with the most of her furniture were swept away.

Another flood occurred only seven years later in 1851. E. Menard wrote this letter to his brother. I chose this letter because it also uses the flood of 1785 as a reference.

Kaskaskia, July 15, 1851

Dear Brother,

We have been flooded again sufficiently to make most of the people in town leave their houses and seek dry land on this side of the river. Yet some few families remained in town all the time. The church ground and some adjoining it in the west, were not covered with any water at all, but the water come just up to the floor in Mrs. Maxwell's house. Almost all the corn and wheat in the bottoms were destroyed and fences washed away yet there was little, if any, of the stock animals lost.

The highest water was on the 13th of June and until now it has not gone down more than about six feet. The difference between this flood and the flood of 1844 and only 4 ft. 9 1/2 inches at St. Louis while here it was 6 ft. 3 inches lower than in '44. This flood was very nearly the same as "les grandes eaux" of the old people here in 1785.

This letter continues with tragic news. A young man (one of Jos. Germain's children) was drowned in driving cattle while the water was yet rising, he was



**"A young man was drowned in driving cattle while the water was yet rising, he was on horseback and swimming one of the coulies ...."**

on horseback and swimming one of the coulies in the point when his horse threw him in the water and probably injured him so that he could not reach the shore which was not far distant.

The damage caused by this flood in 1851 was very large. The flood began around May and continued to rise at St. Louis until 10 June, when it had risen within 4.8 feet of the high-water mark of 1844.

The last flood I want to mention is the flood of 1903. In a material sense, this flood marked a new era in the economic history of the Mississippi Valley.

Previous floods had over-flowed land mostly in wilderness, but by 1903 the bottoms were extensively cultivated and industrialized. This flood will be the subject of another "Remembrance" in a future Esprit, but let me give you a preview.

It produced a flow almost identical to the "non-flood" on this past spring, 2002. But the 1903 Flood, instead of being confined by the St. Louis Flood Wall system and to evening news reports, formed a lake from bluff to bluff - roughly five miles wide and 32 miles long. Bridges stayed out of the water, but not their approaches.

Virtually all of the bottoms of Illinois were flooded. This included East St. Louis, where 15,000 to 20,000 had to flee for their lives. Venice, Brooklyn, Granite City and Cahokia were under water for weeks. No milk was delivered to St. Louis from Illinois and the mail was weeks late, having to go around to get to the city.

But that's another story. We're getting better at smoothing the highs and lows that Mother Nature sends to us via the Mighty Mississippi. And I'll tell you more about this story in another article.

Claude Strauser



**After the 1927 flood, Congress charged the Corps of Engineers with the task of developing a flood protection system for the Mississippi River.**



## To save your back, practice the art of sitting

Soldiers returning from World War II used the saying “Oh, my back!” to indicate that what someone was saying was distressful or aggravating. When you think about it, connecting something that’s aggravating with back pain was a logical choice. Few things are more distressing than an aching back.

Back pain will affect 80- to 90 percent of us at sometime in our lives. It’s second only to headache as the most frequent cause of pain.

Some of the main causes are poor posture, repeated lifting and bending, reaching and twisting, and poor physical condition. Poor posture includes how and how long you sit at your desk or workstation. Too little movement for long periods of time puts great stress on the back.

This is especially true for people with sedentary lifestyles. They lose strength in the trunk muscles that help support



their backs and maintain proper alignment. For these people, a regular program of stretching, abdominal crunches, partial squats, and pelvic tilts would be helpful.

If you never thought of sitting as an art, think of it that way now. Doing it

right could save you from the tired achy feeling that some people get from sitting too long.

First, stand up and walk around a couple of times an hour. The National Safety Council says you should do this when you sit:

- Support your lower back with a lumbar support.
- Sit deep into the chair with both feet flat on the floor.
- Be sure that the height of your work area is level with your elbows when they are hanging by your sides.
- The top of your computer screen should be at or slightly below eye level.
- If you use a telephone frequently, use a head set.

Most back injuries are not caused by a single event. They are the result of a buildup of factors that add up over time. They gradually wear down the back’s supportive structures, leaving you at risk for back pain or a back injury.

## Plan to stay well this winter

Sniffle season is just around the corner, so make plans now to stay well.

A flu shot is basic. It reduces your chances of getting influenza by up to 90 percent. But, you’ll have to do more than that.



On average, people get one to three respiratory illnesses a year, most caused by viruses and occurring in the fall and winter.

Colds are not directly linked to cold weather. Indirectly they are, because people tend to spend more time indoors and in closer contact to other people and their germs. Respiratory viruses, including those that cause flu are very contagious and will survive for hours on

the skin, furniture, telephones, door-knobs, and almost anything else a sick person touches.

Since it’s not practical to cut out all contact with people, it’s important to wash their germs and viruses off your hands before you get their sickness. The American Academy of Family Physicians says a good hand washing will do more to prevent the spread of illness than anything else.

Washing is especially important after a big family gathering, after shaking hands with a number of people at a meeting or at church, and during and after holiday parties.

Your general physical condition matters too. You are less likely to get sick if you stick to your regular sleep and exercise routine. If you drink alcohol at a party, follow it with plenty of water. Lack of sleep and dehydration lower your resistance to disease.

## A little more sleep brings many benefits

Going to bed an hour or just a half hour earlier could have a profound effect on your health, happiness, and safety.

- You could reduce your diabetes risk. Harvard researchers find that too little sleep reduces levels of leptin, the hormone that tells us to stop eating. More weight increases diabetes risk.
- You would be less likely to develop heart disease. A 10-year study shows that women who got less than 7 hours of sleep at night had a higher risk of heart disease. Sleep deprivation raises blood pressure and increases stress.
- You would be happier. The National Sleep Foundation says the sleep deprived are less satisfied with life and more likely to be angry. Dissatisfaction and anger were three times lower for those who got enough sleep.





## Retiree's Corner



The retirees had their monthly luncheon at the Salad Bowl on September 18th.

Sandor Dombi provided a travelogue of his trip to Hungary and Romania. He and his family spent about 6 weeks, in July and August, visiting and traveling.

He had a great number of photos that he displayed on his lap-top computer. He also provided a narrative of the photos and of their various experiences.

Sandor wanted to show his grandchildren where he grew up. He said that they had some interesting experiences as they traveled. They even stayed at a Bed & Breakfast, with great accommodations, for a very low price of \$5.00 American money.

The owners were a little reluctant to even ask for that amount. Sandor said the stay was well worth the value. He explained the economic and political changes he has seen take place over time. He said that the Hungarians and Romanians are beginning to establish a tourist environment to bolster the economy. Considering the world situation, Sandor said that they had very little trouble with security as they traveled. In all, the retirees asked very many questions and were delighted with his presentation.

Lew Scheuermann mentioned that Mrs. Estelle Huizenga is making the move to the Kansas City Area, to be with her daughter. She said that it was just too much to keep the home in the Jackson area and that she is making arrangements to sell the property. Lew also mentioned, almost in passing, that

he and his lovely bride, Helen, were celebrating 56 years of wedded bliss. They were married on September 19, 1947. (WOW!!! That's a long time ago. Why its almost longer that many of the current employees of the District are old.) CONGRATULATIONS LEW AND HELEN! !! We wish you many more years of happiness. You are a model for all to follow.

Wally Feld told the group that the District is supporting the effort in Iraq by deploying District personnel to provide a variety of support activities. At the same time, Emmett Hahn, a retiree working as an Emergency Operations consultant for the Chief's Office, was forward deployed to the East Coast in anticipation of the arrival of Hurricane Isabel.

Joe Bisher was challenged to provide the significance of the number "21" in the ceremonial 21 gun salute. (Answer at end.)

Some tidbits from the District's Information Bulletin from several years ago. Can you guess the date? (Answer at the end)

"On Sunday, 15 September 1968, Major General Robert G. MacDonnell, Division Engineer, LMVD; Illinois Governor Shapiro; Illinois Senator Charles Percy and other dignitaries pulled a gold tassel, and Carlyle Reservoir became officially dedicated."

....and in a related note...

"Mr. Glen H. Walker has assumed duties as Reservoir Manager at the Carlyle Reservoir. Mr. Walker transferred from the Little Rock District. His last assignment was Reservoir Manager at Table Rock Dam."

New employees included:

- Milton P. Mindel
- Harry Ward
- Edward M. Pucel
- William H. Streitz
- Diana M. Kutz
- Sally M. Unterreiner
- Allen I. Swenson

...and under SUGGESTION AWARDS...

"James A. Lawler, Real Estate Division, was awarded \$40 for suggesting that utility relocation contracts be modified by supplemental agreement to include additional work rather than drawing a completely new contract.

"Gordon E. Cordes, Construction Division, Supervision and Inspection Branch, was awarded \$20 for suggesting the re-use of core boxes for core samples taken during the subsurface exploratory work at the projects."

"Richard R. Sovar, Engineering Division, Design Branch, Structural Section was awarded \$15 for suggesting the revision of computation sheet, LMV Form 107a-d which eliminates distraction of lines and facilitates use and reproduction of the form."

*ANSWERS: Joe Bisher was quick to provide the answer that the number 21 is the sum of the digits in 1776. The date of the District Information Bulletin was September 18, 1968 (35 years ago).*

The retirees in attendance extend a hearty welcome to all "new retirees" to join the group at the Salad Bowl on the third Thursday of the month at about 11a.m. Hope to see more of you there.

## MIT survey: Toothbrush is top invention?

They need their toothbrushes. That's what people told MIT-Lemelson researchers who asked them what invention they could not live without.

It appears that the 15th century Chinese invention beat out all sorts of technology including cars, computers, cell phones, microwave ovens. The toothbrush was chosen as most important to them by 42 percent of respondents.

The PC got only 6 percent, and the cellular phone was named best by only 2 percent of adults and kids.

Study leaders concluded that simple things in life really do count, things like cleanliness, the clothes we wear, our homes, and our families.



# Veterans Day 2003

*by Alan Dooley*

Veterans Day this year will be day of great meaning for more than 100,000 brave young men and women of our armed forces. For they are serving in Iraq and Afghanistan, becoming what the day is intended to recognize, veterans of our nation's wars.

Veterans Day is semi unique among American national holidays. It was originally established in 1926 to observe Armistice Day, and mark the end of the First World War – on the 11th hour, of the 11th day, of the 11th month. In 1954 its meaning was broadened by President Dwight D. Eisenhower to become a day to remember all Americans who have served in our nation's conflicts.

Every year for years, hundreds of speeches and messages were written, intoning similar words...

"Americans should pause to remember..." But by 1968 – half a century after World War One was ended and most of its veterans were dead – we changed the date.

Veterans Day was moved to the fourth Monday in October, converting it to become part of a convenient three-day weekend, strategically positioned between Labor Day and Thanksgiving.

But only 10 years later, in 1978, enough Americans were troubled that we had stopped observing a day of great significance in our nation's history, and our Congress restored

Veterans Day to the 11th day of the 11th month. We had it right again.

Veterans Day should be a day on par with the 4th of July. On that single day in 1776, our great experiment in democracy that would become the United States of America, was born.

Veterans Day, on the other hand commemorates not a single event and a small number of

brave patriots. Rather it recognizes all of the men and women who have fought our nation's enemies, down through more than two centuries, to ensure that that noble endeavor would survive.

There will be no picnics, fireworks and band concerts to make the day festive. It will be just another day to so many Americans. But it is a day designated for our nation to recognize those who have served her when she has called – who have

endured hardships, who have struggled and sacrificed – who have born terrible burdens in distant lands, far from loved ones and home.

If you know a veteran, thank him or her this Veterans Day, November 11th. Thank that person for making all that you have accomplished and managed to accumulate, possible. Tell them that you appreciate them for what they have done. If you don't know one, stop, pause, and reflect. Then thank them all. We owe them no less.

And oh, let's not forget again. Another generation of veterans is being created right now.

